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LOS ANGELES
Vietnam Reconsidered

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists, former CIA agents and military policy makers such as Nguyen Cao Ky gather this week for a conference called "Vietnam Reconsidered: Lessons From a War."

A.J. "Jack" Langguth, a former war correspondent and journalism professor who organized the four-day gathering at the University of Southern California, says he doesn't want the significance of the war to be lost on a new generation _ or on the older one.

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Many panelists, including writers and leaders of the anti-war movement, are preparing scholarly papers that will be the basis of a book to be published by Harper & Row with book proceeds to be donated to Vietnam Refugee Relief, according to Ed Cray, public relations director of the conference.

Big names at the gathering include Ky, the former vice president of South Vietnam, Daniel Ellsberg of Pentagon Papers fame and Frank Snepp, a former CIA agent who incurred agency wrath with his book on the war, "Decent Interval."

The roster also includes 12 Pulitzer Prize winners, among them war photographers Eddie Adams and Nick Ut, whose pictures will be on display.

There will be speeches by top journalism and literary figures such as David Halberstam, Keyes Beech, Harrison Salisbury, Frances Fitzgerald, Gloria Emerson and Arthur Miller.

Military men, a prisoner of war, Vietnam veterans and war protester David Dellinger, who was one of the Chicago Seven, are also among the 85 panelists.

"The panelists fall into two categories," said Langguth, "those who have assimilated the Vietnam experience and gone on to other things and those who have continued to express their opinions on the war."

Langguth, who was New York Times bureau chief in Saigon in 1965, says the idea for "Vietnam Reconsidered" was spurred by his students at USC Journalism School who knew little about the war.

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Students from USC and surrounding universities are among the 1,000 participants expected to attend 20 different panel sessions Sunday through Wednesday, with topics including "Roots of U.S. Involvement in Vietnam," "The War and U. S. Culture," "Role of the CIA in Vietnam," and "Did Vietnam Change Journalism?"

Although Langguth anticipates a calm, dispassionate examination of issues, the conference already has stirred controversy with word that the U.S. government refused a visa for a representative of Vietnam to attend.

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Instead, Nguyen Ngoc Dung, in New York, will participate through an electronic hookup arranged by California Public Radio and National Public Radio.

Mrs. Dung, permanent United Nations representative of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, is part of a panel titled "The Aftermath in Indochina" on Wednesday.

A spokesman for the State Department in Washington said travel by representatives of nations with whom the United States does not have diplomatic relations is restricted to a 25-mile radius of the United Nations building in New York except when diplomatic business requires travel.

Langguth says all panel discussions will be taped for distribution to colleges and universities. A British TV crew will be filming the talks for a documentary and TV networks from Japan, Australia and Europe will be covering the conference, according to Cray.

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